United Nations DP/FPA/2014/10

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

Distr.: General
10 April 2014

Original: English

Annual session 2014
23 to 27 June, Geneva
Item 13 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Arab States region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the first one-year extensions of the UNFPA country programmes for Algeria and Lebanon.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves six-month extensions and first one-year extensions of country programmes, while requests for extensions for a second or third year, as well as two-year and two-and-a-half-year extensions, are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Algeria and Lebanon, as indicated in the attached table.

14-29673 (E) 160414

Please recycle

Table 1. Country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Algeria	2012-2014	2015 (first one-year extension)	The request for the extension of the country programme is a joint decision of the United Nations country team. UNDP and UNFPA country programme action plans were signed in March and April 2013 respectively; the country programmes were due to begin in 2012. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to review its programme in 2014 to adjust its objectives, taking into consideration the delay in its implementation. The Resident Coordinator has conducted discussions with the designated staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Governement has verbally agreed with the extensions of the country programmes. A written request to extend the programmes, sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 July 2013, enabled the Government to confirm the agreement in writing. The Government has given its approval for the country programme extensions. The Resident Coordinator received a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 September 2013. During the country team meeting of 1 October 2013, the Resident Coordinator presented a timeline for the preparation of the next Strategic Cooperation Framework, 2016-2019.	Presidential elections are scheduled for April 2014 and a new government will be elected, bringing with it the possibility of a new development programme. The extension provides the flexibility to adapt to eventual political changes while developing the new Strategic Cooperation Framework document for 2016-2019.	The one-year extension seeks to: (a) complete the activities of the 2012-2014 country programme and ensure continued access to reproductive health services; (b) ensure continuity of the Strategic Cooperation Framework, 2012-2014, beyond its end date and align it with United Nations action on the development agenda of the Government of Algeria; and (c) engage in the midterm review of the Strategic Cooperation Framework, 2012-2014 in January to February 2014, including: (i) Developing the country analysis (similar to common country assessment) for submission to the Peer Support Group for its review by June 2014; (ii) Preparing the new Strategic Cooperation Framework, 2016-2019, the exercise for which will start in September 2014 and end in January 2015; (iii) Developing the new country programme from November 2014 to May 2015; (iv) Validating the country programme within UNFPA from June to August 2015; and (v) Submitting the Algeria country programme to the Executive Board for approval in September 2015.

Table 1. Country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Lebanon	2010-2014	2015 (first one-year extension)	The Government of Lebanon agreed with the United Nations country team to extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for one additional year. The current UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP programme cycles are aligned and harmonized with the UNDAF cycle.	The current Syrian refugee crisis has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of already fragile Lebanese state institutions, which have been experiencing great difficulties in coping with the massive inflow of Syrian refugees. These factors have inevitably had an impact on the development programming processes of the United Nations system in Lebanon. The current context has required the country team, in close collaboration with the World Bank, to bridge humanitarian assistance with long-term development initiatives and stabilization efforts in order to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the Syrian crisis.	As a result of the changing political and development contexts, the one-year extension will allow the United Nations system to better prepare for the common programming and prioritization exercise for the next UNDAF cycle. The country team has also agreed to revise current UNDAF priorities so that they more accurately reflect the evolving Lebanese context and more effectively support the Government of Lebanon for the remainder of the cycle.